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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

In the wake of the Skrull invasion, Tony Stark has been stripped of his role as both leader of the Avengers and director of a now-defunct S.H.I.E.L.D., and the Avengers are on the run. Until they can be sure who's on their side, Wolverine, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive even though they are living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling, and, in Tony's place, is now running H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers. Unable to stand it, Clint Barton, a.k.a. Ronin, finally took matters into his own hands and went on national television to out Osborn as the former villain, the Green Goblin.

But something far worse is stirring, only it's not on this mortal plane. Sometime ago, the Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Stephen Strange lost his mastery of the mystic arts when he used dark powers to save the Avengers from certain defeat. Since then, no one has seen or heard from Strange.

But if Strange is no longer the Sorcerer Supreme, who is?

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THE HOOD'S PENTHOUSE:

YOU BOW BEFORE THE GREAT DORMAMMU, PARKER ROBBINS.

IT PLEASES ME THAT YOU FINALLY RESPECT OUR RELATIONSHIP.

IT HURTS SO MUCH...

WHY DOES IT HURT SO MUCH?

YOU ASKED FOR THE POWER OF THE DARK DIMENSION.

YOU ASKED FOR ALL ITS SECRETS.

YOU LIED TO ME.

YOU TRICKED ME.

I DID NOTHING OF THE SORT.

YOU WANTED POWER AND NOW YOU HAVE IT.

I TOLD YOU WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO GAIN FULL CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS AND YOU REFUSE.

I CAN'T...

FIND...

DOCTOR STRANGE.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO FIND HIM.

YOU TOLD ME IF HE DOESN'T USE *HIS* POWERS I *CAN'T*... FIND HIM.

HE WILL.

EVEN THOUGH HE IS NO LONGER THIS DIMENSION'S SORCERER SUPREME, HE STILL HAS CONTROL OF THE MAGICS.

HE WILL USE IT. YOU WILL FIND HIM, AND YOU WILL KILL HIM, AND YOU...

... YOU WILL BE SORCERER SUPREME.

BUT YOU MUST DO THIS BEFORE ANY OTHER.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD WHO IS LOOKING FOR HIM.

A *SHOCKING* NIGHT OF AVENGERS REVELATIONS.

EARLIER TONIGHT, *RIGHT HERE* EXCLUSIVELY, CLINT BARTON CAME CLEAN ABOUT HIS PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD ACCORDING TO NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS ROLE IN THE AVENGERS FRANCHISE.

ANNIE DEACONS
THE MYSTERY OF MOON KNIGHT, A SPECIAL REPORT AT 11PM.
LIVE 6:45
MENBS

NORMAN OSBORN IS EMPLOYING *CRIMINALS* TO DO HIS BLACK OPS DIRTY WORK, *RIGHT HERE* IN THE UNITED STATES.

THIS *CANNOT* BE ALLOWED.

THIS NEEDS TO BE LOOKED INTO BY PEOPLE OF AUTHORITY. THIS *NEEDS* TO BE STOPPED.

CLINT BARTON WORLD EXCLUSIVE, RECORDED.
RED HULK SMASHES VEGAS
LIVE 6:46
MENBS

CLINT BARTON ACCUSED THE NEW TOP COP IN AMERICA OF MURDER, CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STACKING THE AVENGERS TEAM WITH CRIMINALS.

ANNIE DEACONS
THE MYSTERY OF MOON KNIGHT, A SPECIAL REPORT AT 11PM.
LIVE 6:45
MENBS

WHEN ASKED FOR EVIDENCE TO BACK UP HIS CLAIMS, MISTER BARTON SAID HE DIDN'T *NEED* ANY.

THAT THE EVIDENCE WOULD BE PRESENTING ITSELF PUBLICLY VERY SOON.

BUT THAT WAS JUST THE WARM-UP TO THE BIG SHOCKER...

OH, BROTHER.

COME ON...

MAN.

WHAT NOW?

ON THE TONIGHT SHOW, A SCHEDULED APPEARANCE BY HERO/ACTOR SIMON WILLIAMS, BETTER KNOWN AS THE AVENGER WONDER MAN, BECAME SOMETHING OF A PUBLIC THERAPY SESSION.

ANNIE DEACONS
FANTASTIC FOUR HOLD CHARITY PRESS CONFERENCE FOR SKRULL REFUGEES.
LIVE 6:47
MENBS

OH, NO.

NO. BEING AN AVENGER WAS A COMPLETE WASTE OF MY TIME. AND IT'S MY FAULT ... I KEPT GETTING MYSELF SUCKED INTO IT.

BUT NO. NO. NO MORE.

THIS IDEA OF VIOLENCE AS JUSTICE. IT'S CAUSED NOTHING BUT HEARTACHE AND DEATH.

THE CIVIL WAR... THE INVASION...

THEY JUST PROVED THAT--THAT NOTHING CHANGES.

SIMON WILLIAMS CLIP COURTESY OF THE TONIGHT SHOW
SIMON WILLIAMS UNLEASHED
LIVE 6:47
MENBS

IT'S AN *ILLUSION* OF CHANGE.

FOR ALL OUR RUNNING AROUND AND SACRIFICE... *NORMAN OSBORN* IS IN CHARGE.

AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, HONESTLY, THAT'S ABOUT WHAT THIS COUNTRY DESERVES.

YOU GET WHAT YOU DESERVE, AND THAT'S WHAT YOU PEOPLE CLEARLY DESERVE.

JANET VAN DYNE IS DEAD AND NORMAN OSBORN IS NICK FURY.

TELL ME THERE'S A GOD.

SIMON WILLIAMS CLIP COURTESY OF THE TONIGHT SHOW
WONDER MAN MELTDOWN
LIVE 6:48
MENBS

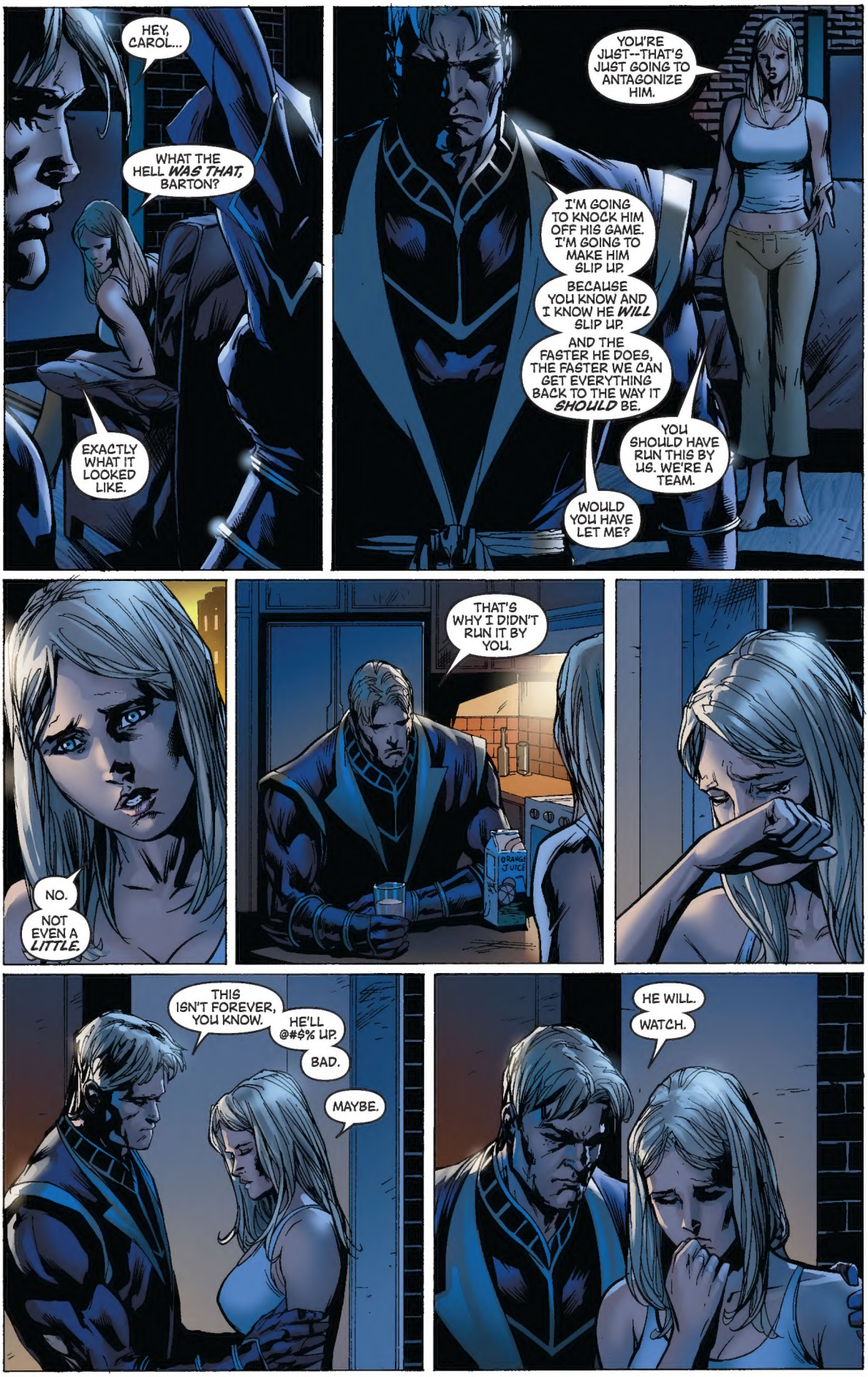
REQUESTS TO SIMON WILLIAMS' PUBLICISTS HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED.

COMING UP NEXT... ALISON BLAIRE'S DAZZLING COMEBACK AND--

ANNIE DEACONS
CHECK OUT OUR NORMAN OSBORN POLL AT OUR WEBSITE.
LIVE 6:49
MENBS

CLK

CREEKKK


HEY, CAROL...
WHAT THE HELL *WAS THAT,* BARTON?
EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
YOU'RE JUST--THAT'S JUST GOING TO ANTAGONIZE HIM.
I'M GOING TO KNOCK HIM OFF HIS GAME. I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM SLIP UP.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW AND I KNOW HE *WILL* SLIP UP.
AND THE FASTER HE DOES, THE FASTER WE CAN GET EVERYTHING BACK TO THE WAY IT *SHOULD* BE.
WOULD YOU HAVE LET ME?
YOU SHOULD HAVE RUN THIS BY US. WE'RE A TEAM.
NO.
NOT EVEN A *LITTLE.*
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T RUN IT BY YOU.
ORANGE JUICE
THIS ISN'T FOREVER, YOU KNOW.
HE'LL @#$% UP.
BAD.
MAYBE.
HE WILL.
WATCH.

DOVER, NEW JERSEY:
WEEEOOOOO WEEEOOOOO WEEEOOOOO WEEE
OOOO WEEEOOOOO
LIGHTNING BOLTLIGHTNING BOLT.
KARAKORAM

CRASH

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, BILLY.

OH MY GOD... DOCTOR STRANGE.
I LIKE THE "TAKE CARE OF IT QUICK AND DON'T STICK AROUND FOR THE CREDIT" THING.
NICELY DONE.
BUT THE CAR COULD HAVE CRASHED INTO CIVILIANS. YOU GOT A LITTLE LUCKY THERE.
YOU HAVE TO THINK IT THROUGH...ALL THE WAY TO THE END.

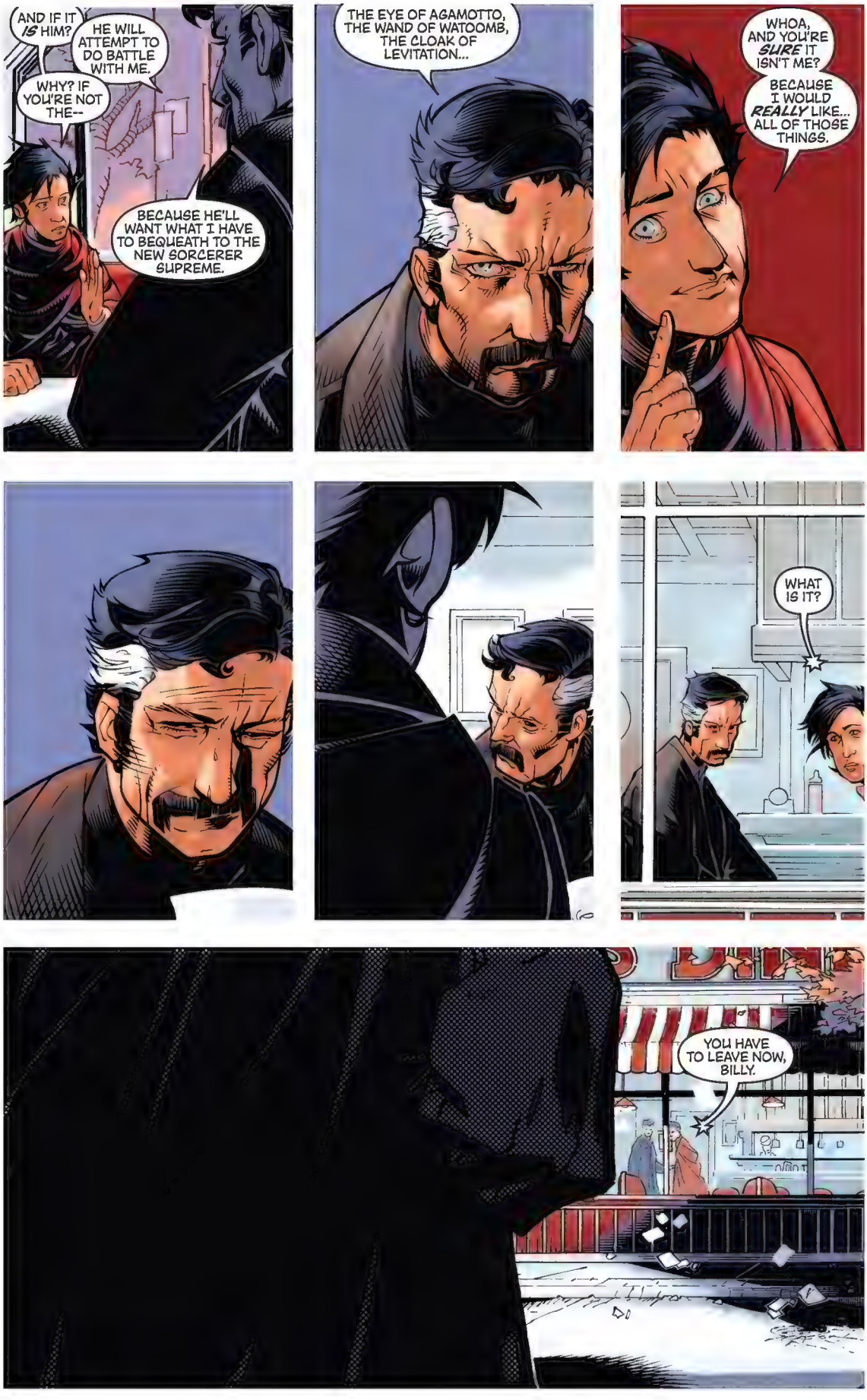
WHAT? WHAT-WHAT-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
LOOKING FOR YOU.
AM I IN TROUBLE?
WHY WOULD YOU BE IN TROUBLE?
I DON'T-- I DON'T--
I DON'T KNOW.

I'LL BUY YOU BREAKFAST.

WAIT TILL I TELL THE OTHER YOUNG AVENGERS WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER.
THEY-ARE-GOING-TO-FREAK.
YOUNG AVENGERS?
YEAH, ME AND MY FRIENDS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
APOLOGIZE?
"YOUNG" MEANS YOU'RE APOLOGIZING. YOU'RE SAYING, WE'RE YOUNG SO DON'T TAKE US TOO SERIOUSLY.
I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT.
BUT WE ARE YOUNG.
NEVER MIND.
DO YOU KNOW WHO JENNIFER KALE IS?
UH, NO.
SHE'S A SORCERESS. USED TO HANG AROUND WITH MAN-THING.
WHAT'S A MAN-THING?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THAT'S WHERE I'VE BEEN. DOWN IN FLORIDA. I WENT TO HER FIRST. THE LADY WAS HARD TO FIND.
I WENT DOWN THERE TO SEE IF... SHE'S THE ONE.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE SHE WAS...WITH HER ABILITY...
BUT, IT SEEMS...SHE WAS NOT.
NOT WHAT?
THE NEW SORCERER SUPREME.

BUT--BUT YOU'RE THE SORCERER SUPREME.
NOT ANY MORE.
WHAT? WAIT, WHAT? WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
I ABUSED MY POWERS AS MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
AND THE WORLD'S BALANCE... IT'S TOO DELICATE FOR ME TO PRETEND MY FAILURES ARE...
THERE NEEDS TO BE A STRONG GUARDIAN.
THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS NEEDS TO BE PURE.
BUT... YOU'VE--YOU'RE-- AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE HARD ON YOURSELF?
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE DOCTOR STRANGE.
BILLY, YOU HAVE GIFTS BUT YOU NEED TO TRAIN. YOU NEED TO LEARN MORE.
I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT.
I CAN TEACH YOU, OR INTRODUCE YOU TO PEOPLE WHO CAN TEACH YOU.
I KNOW, I KNOW. I KEEP MEANING TO DO MORE.
BUT EVERY TWO SECONDS THERE'S SOME SORT OF CIVIL WAR OR ALIENS OR--
BUT THAT'S THE TRAP. I SEE IT NOW.
YOU CAN'T BE DISTRACTED BY THE PHYSICAL PLANE... YOU HAVE TO LOOK PAST IT AND INSIDE YOURSELF... TO SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE.
YES.
WILL YOU DO THAT?
YES.
AM I--
DO YOU THINK I'M THE NEXT SORCERER SUPREME?

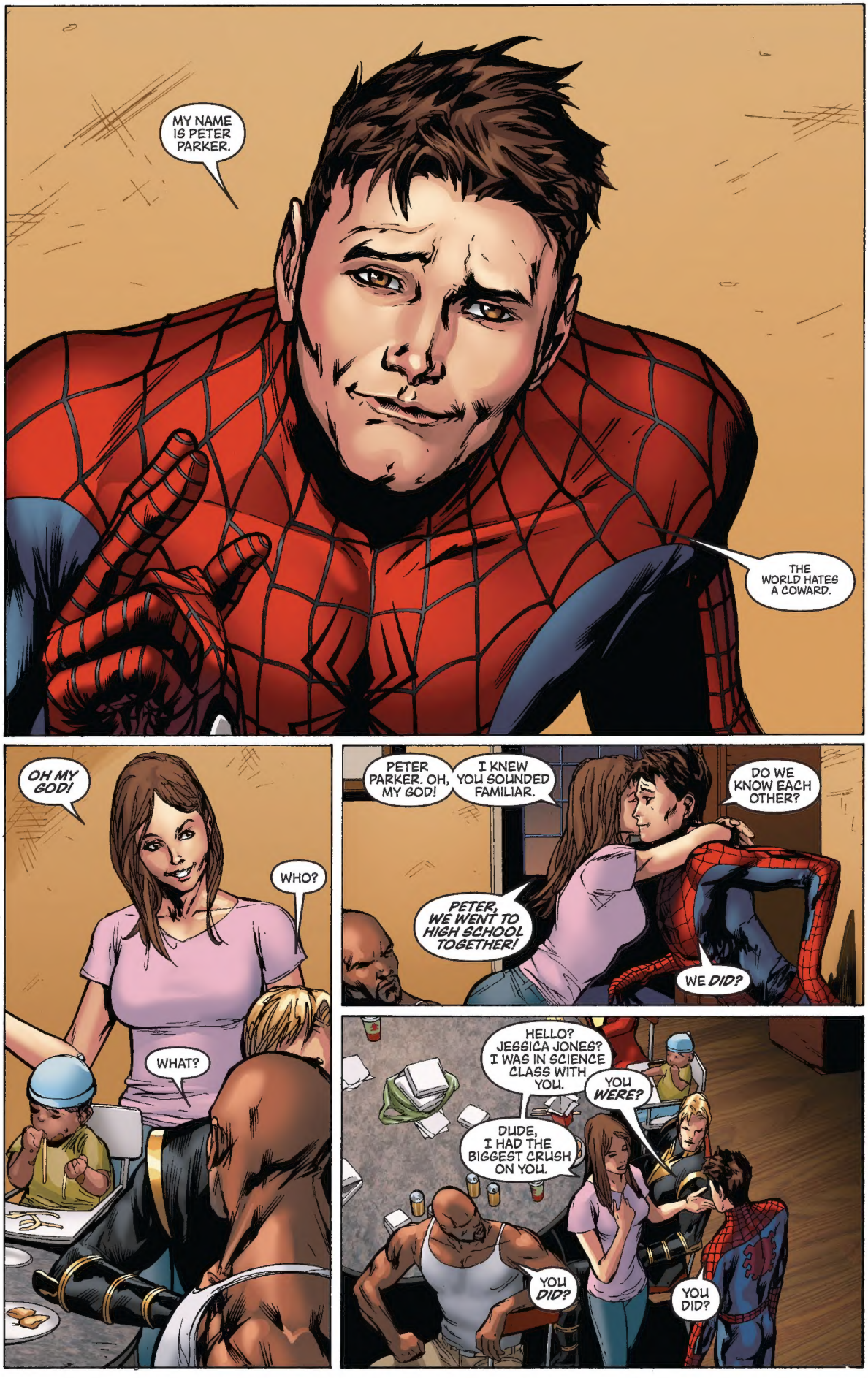
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS.
HOW WILL YOU BE ABLE TO TELL?
THE ANCIENT ONE SAID IT WOULD BE CLEAR.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I--I DON'T KNOW.
I ASSUME IT WILL BE CLEAR TO ME WHEN THE TIME COMES.
SO IF IT WAS ME, IT--IT WOULD BE CLEAR.
MAYBE, I DON'T KNOW.
WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
IS THERE A LIST?
THERE IS-- AND I'M HOPING TO ALL THAT IS HOLY THAT IT'S NOT VICTOR VON DOOM.
BUT...IT VERY WELL MIGHT BE.
OH MY GOD. DOCTOR DOOM.
HE'S-- HE KNOWS THAT MUCH STUFF?
HE DOES.
HE TRAVELS THROUGH TIME GATHERING HIDDEN DARK ARTS THAT HAVE LONG BEEN FORGOTTEN.
THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
AND MY HOPE IS THAT HIS WAYS ARE TOO CORRUPTED AND HIS SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE TOO COMPROMISED FOR HIM EVEN TO BE CONSIDERED.
BUT THAT JUST MAY BE MY WISHFUL THINKING.


AND IF IT IS HIM?
HE WILL ATTEMPT TO DO BATTLE WITH ME.
WHY? IF YOU'RE NOT THE--
BECAUSE HE'LL WANT WHAT I HAVE TO BEQUEATH TO THE NEW SORCERER SUPREME.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO, THE WAND OF WATOOMB, THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION...
WHOA, AND YOU'RE SURE IT ISN'T ME?
BECAUSE I WOULD REALLY LIKE... ALL OF THOSE THINGS.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, BILLY.

AVENGERS HIDEOUT, THE BRONX
OKAY THIS IS THE WAY HE USED TO DO IT. OLD SCHOOL AVENGERS STYLE.
WE HAVE A MEETING. LIKE THIS.
WE ALL GET TOGETHER AND WE DISCUSS THE MATTERS OF THE DAY.
BRING IT.
OKAY. FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO SELECT A TEAM LEADER... AND A SECOND IN COMMAND, JUST IN CASE.
LUKE, YOU'VE BEEN OUR TEAM LEADER.
I *HAVE?*
HAVEN'T YOU?
NEWS TO ME.
DO YOU *WANT* TO BE TEAM LEADER?
NOT REALLY.
DOES *ANYONE* WANT TO BE TEAM LEADER?
IS THERE MONEY IN IT?
MONEY? NO.
WELL...

CAP, THERE, HAS THE MILITARY EXPERIENCE.
BUT NOT THE AVENGERS EXPERIENCE.
CAROL HAS MILITARY EXPERIENCE.
OH, YEAH...
I DON'T WANT TO BE TEAM LEADER NOW. I'VE GOT TOO MUCH GOING DOWN.
YOU SURE?
MAYBE ANOTHER TIME.
BARTS. YOU WANT IT?
I'LL DO IT IF NO ONE ELSE DOES.
THEN DO IT. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE OLD SCHOOL AVENGERS HANDBOOK APPARENTLY.
ANYONE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME THEN? SPEAK NOW... YOU WON'T HURT MY FEELINGS.
EXCEPT, YOU WILL ABSOLUTELY HURT HIS FEELINGS.
HEY! I CAN TAKE IT. C'MON... WHO DOESN'T LOVE ME?
IT'S YOURS. TAKE IT.
OKAY, BUT YOU'RE SECOND IN COMMAND.
FINE AS IN...?
FINE.
FINE AS IN FINE.
OKAY, SO MY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, AND THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE AWKWARD.
WELL, THEN, GOOD, BECAUSE THIS IS ABOUT YOU.
OOOH, I LOVE AWKWARD.
ME?

IN THIS CLIMATE, IN THIS POST-SKRULL *"WHO CAN YOU TRUST?"* HIDING FROM NORMAN OSBORN WORLD WE LIVE IN.
THE FACT THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE IS A PROBLEM.
EVERYONE ELSE IS MASKS OFF.
BUT YOU...
OH MAN, REALLY?
I CAN SMELL HIM. IT'S REALLY HIM.
NO OFFENSE, LOGAN, YOU'RE ONLY HERE HALF THE TIME AND YOU COULDN'T SNIFF OUT A SKRULL.
YEAH, I GET YA.
SORRY, WEBS, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW HAVING YOU HERE IN FULL BODY STOCKING AND MASK IS A SAFE MOVE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.
BABY INCLUDED.
SO IF I DON'T TAKE OFF MY MASK I'M OUT?
SORRY.
AIN'T NO THING, MAN.
JUST YANK IT OFF. FREE YOURSELF.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T *TRUST* ANY OF YOU...
IT'S JUST...
THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE IN MY LIFE.
AND NOW I GOT NORMAN OSBORN AS KING OF THE WORLD. IT'S A REAL CONCERN FOR ME PERSONALLY.
I HAVE A HISTORY WITH THE GUY.
BUT I *KNEW* THIS DAY WOULD COME. I *KNEW* IT WOULD.
OF *COURSE* IT WOULD. AND I THOUGHT ABOUT IT--
--I SAID: WELL, IF THE DAY COMES I GOTTA WALK OUT OVER THIS, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WALK.
BUT HERE I AM. AND DAMN IF I DON'T WANT TO.
I *LIKE* BEING AN AVENGER. I *LOVE* BEING AN AVENGER.
CAP WAS RIGHT. IT GAVE ME THAT SOMETHING ELSE I NEEDED.
BUT I CAN'T-- I CAN'T DO THIS THING YOU NEED ME TO DO.
SO, WHAT? THAT'S IT? YOU'RE OUT?
YOU'RE LEAVING?
UGH...
I HATE THIS.


MY NAME IS PETER PARKER.
THE WORLD HATES A COWARD.
OH MY GOD!
WHO?
WHAT?
PETER PARKER. OH, MY GOD!
I KNEW YOU SOUNDED FAMILIAR.
DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?
PETER, WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER!
WE DID?
HELLO? JESSICA JONES? I WAS IN SCIENCE CLASS WITH YOU.
YOU WERE?
DUDE, I HAD THE BIGGEST CRUSH ON YOU.
YOU DID?
YOU DID?

MY FAMILY GOT IN A CAR ACCIDENT... I WAS IN A COMA...
OH! COMA GIRL!
OH MY GOD. HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
COMA GIRL?! REALLY?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR REAL NAME...YOU WERE JUST..."COMA GIRL."
DID EVERYONE IN HIGH SCHOOL CALL ME COMA GIRL?
WELL, I'M SURE NOT EVERYONE...
YOU HAD A CRUSH ON... HIM?
IT WAS A BILLION YEARS AGO, LUKE. (SHUSH.)
PETER, SERIOUSLY, YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT I WAS TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH YOU.
IN LOVE?
WHEN WAS THIS?
HOW?
WHAT?
DID YOU TELL ME?
MOST OF NINTH AND ALL OF TENTH GRADE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
NOT IN WORDS.
LOVE OR CRUSH?
WHICH IS IT? BECAUSE THEY'RE COMPLETELY TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW *MY NAME?!*

WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN UP.

BECAUSE UNTIL I GOT MY POWERS I WAS SITTING AT HOME WITH TEST TUBES AND BEAKERS EATING GIANT PILES OF FLAPJACKS.

FLAPJACKS?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

I WOULD HAVE TOTALLY GONE OUT WITH--

COMA GIRL?!

I DIDN'T KNOW.

I DIDN'T...

...KNOW.

I ENJOYED THAT, GOOD MEETING.

GUYS. LISTEN...

THIS, ME, THIS CAN'T GET OUT.

MY FAMILY. MY FRIENDS...YOU UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO KNOW THIS.

WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO NORMAN OSBORN?

HE'S MY BEST FRIEND'S FATHER.

SO, WAIT, SO YOU HAVE AN *IN.*

YOU CAN *GET* TO HIM.

IT'S A LOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.

COMPLICATED HOW?

COMPLICATED AS IN COMPLICATED. FIRST OF ALL I HAVE--

CRASH

WAIT.

SWEET CHRISTMAS...

HELP ME...
TO BE CONTINUED...